

## A WESTERN DUEL.

The following terrible account of a south-western duel is no work of fiction, but the history of an actual occurrence, that took place in a public tavern some years ago, and amidst a number of witnesses. To make the story intelligible, it should be premised that a swaggering Western colonel, one of those ruffianly bullies that occasionally infest society, on entering a tavern, swore that he would raise a fight, and in order to do so, walked quietly up to a young man in the company, and, after listening to some private conversation between himself and a friend, deliberately gives him the lie, and calls him a coward. A rencontre, of course, takes place, and the following is the mode of fighting and the result of the fight:

"Reconciliation, even during the space of a few hours, being thus rendered impossible, and all the already proposed modes of fighting being rejected or unattended to, a new proposition was made. It was distinctly that in order to disarm out of the parties of his decided general advantage as a duelist—to prevent the other, as far as possible, the following articles ought to be agreed to: That the landlord should give up the use of a large empty room, which extended over the whole top of his house, and allow every window to be closely blocked up with shutters and boards. That, when this was done, the duellists should be divested of every particle of clothing, armed each with a brace of pistols and a bowie knife, and then be let into the room, three minutes being given, after the closing of the door, before hostilities commenced, the expiration of the time being announced to them by three rapid knocks upon the door.

"Will it be believed that this arrangement was instantly agreed to? But so it was.—And a tolerable party immediately proceeded up stairs, some to make the needful arrangements, and others to listen to this unseen fight, and await its exciting result.

"Savage as men's spirits may be, such a scene of preparation was enough to silence, if not awe them. While it was passing, no man spoke; but all looked curiously upon the fine, muscular persons that were soon, in all probability, about to cut each other up alive.

"All things being ready, the door, which had cautiously been kept closed, to prevent the interior of the place being seen by the duellists, was opened, and they entered the room of death together. The old man, whose friend one of them was, wept in silent bitterness; but, by an involuntary action, as the young man passed out of his sight, evidently besought heaven to assist the innocent.—The door was closed. The time-keeper drew out his watch, and kept his eyes steadily fixed upon it. The assembled party employed that brief period in offering and accepting (in whispers) bets of from one to five hundred or more dollars, as to the result. According to sporting phrase, 'the colonel was the favorite,' though the backers of neither one nor the other appeared inclined to offer very long odds.

"The time-keeper closed his watch, and gave the signal; at the same moment, all the lights on the landing and staircase were extinguished, in order that no ray might pass through the least crevice into the inside of the room.

"Everybody expected, upon the giving of the signal, to hear the commencement of the strife; but they listened in dead silence to no purpose—not the remotest sound, even of a footstep, could be heard. And thus they waited five minutes, and ten, and twenty, and yet the combatants gave no sign. After the lapse, as near as might be conjectured, of half-an-hour, or thereabouts, one pistol was discharged; and although the listeners had been in continued expectation of it so long, yet, when it did come, a sudden start of surprise ran through them, as though each man had instantly felt that he might have received the contents himself. And then followed a hasty step across the floor—another pistol report—the clashing of knives, and a brief, but seemingly desperate, attempt to wrestle, which quickly terminated, and all again was quiet.

"'It's all up!' whispered one, 'I'll bet drinks for the crowd!'

"'Taken!' said another. 'I begin to want a julep.'

"'Fifty to forty the colonel has killed him!' remarked a third. 'He was a very nice young man, but he can't come in this time.'

"And thus they would have gone on, had not the third report been just then heard, followed by a prolonged expectation of it so long, and knife to knife, in the course of which the fourth pistol was exploded. The strokes of the knives began to grow less frequent, and more faint in sound; but ere they had entirely ceased, a heavy body dropped with a dead sound upon the floor of the room. Another instant, and there followed another heavy fall.

"Some individuals present were for opening the doors immediately; but this proposition was overruled on the ground that, if the fight was not yet over, the most able might take advantage of the appearance of the light to kill the other even lying on the boards.

"About half an hour was, if I recollect aright, allowed to pass in close and attentive listening, to catch the most distant sound from within. None was heard; and at the expiration of that period, amidst a crowd of the most horrible of anxious faces, the door was opened, and the whole party rushed in. Towards the remotest end, and not far from the wall, lay a heap like red cloth. It was composed of the gashed and bloody bodies of the duellists! One lay across the other.—They were taken up; and something like a distant murmur of applause followed, when it was discovered that the colonel was undermost!

"But many who best knew him spoke outright their gladness, when an examination proved that he was perfectly dead. Both bodies were so mangled, that it was next to impossible to handle them without touching the wounds.

"The best of it was, however, that the conqueror of this fearful white savage was found to be still alive. He was taken down stairs instantly, stimulants were given, and he began to revive. His body was then carefully washed; after which, being cautiously wrapped up, he was conveyed away to the nearest surgeon's room time after midnight.

"The room exhibited a spectacle not to be described.

"The young man eventually recovered entirely of all his wounds, and was often congratulated of having rid the country of a monster whom few dared to attack.

"This was not all. During his convalescence, inquiries were frequently made of him as to how the fight was managed; and he accordingly gave the following curious account, as nearly as the writer can remember.

"When the door was closed," said he, we were surrounded by the most profound darkness. It seemed for some moments to con found the senses and be close to my eyes.—During the three minutes allowed before the battle might begin, my principal aim was to get away from my antagonist into another part of the room, without his knowledge, and to stand there by the wall, until, perhaps, he should make some movement, by the sound of which I could be directed in my attack. The crowd outside was as still as death. I held my breath, and treading so lightly that I could not hear my own foot-falls, I stole away to that side of the room on which I entered. Whether he had calculated that I should naturally do so, and had, therefore, taken the same direction, nobody can now tell; but no sooner had I stood to listen for him, than I found he was somewhere about me—I could hear his breathing. With the greatest caution and silence, I hastened to another part, expecting every moment that he would run against me, or I against him. And in this kind of maneuvering, sometimes to get away, and sometimes to approach, if I fancied, though why I know not, that an advantage might be gained, the greater part of the silent half-hour you speak of was spent.

"At length, having safely reached the opposite side, I stood still, resolved not to move again, until he either approached, having, perhaps, found me out, or by some means or other I could discover his position in the room. Having now got beyond his reach, I felt that to be motionless on my part would be the wisest step, and calculated that his passion and fury would soon lead him on to the exhibition of less caution.—Nothing of the kind occurred, and yet the first ball discharged was mine. A mouse could have been heard to stir; but we were perfectly lost to each other.

"Eventually, whether my eyes had become more accommodated to the blackness, or from whatever cause, but true enough it is, I perceived a pair of eyes on the other side, nearly opposite me. They shone like those of a hyena in the night. I fired instantly, and rushed forward. The flash showed me the colonel crouched down against the wall, and must have equally directed him to me. He fired as he advanced, but missed. We were almost close together. The empty pistols were thrown down, and the knives used. He rushed on with great ferocity, and tried to grapple with me, but I slipped out of his arms; and for an instant being quite separated, both stood still, listening for the place of the other. I think he must have heard me, for he fired a second time, with such effect as you have all seen. Nothing but his knife now remained. I had a knife and a pistol. We were so close together that he was upon me almost as soon as the pistol-ball. The latter staggered me a little at the moment, but I met him with the knife, and from that time we never separated again. My object was to keep him from closing upon me, until I could be as certain as darkness would permit of using my last ball to advantage.—In consequence of that I retreated in various ways, both still fighting, sometimes on the open floor, and sometimes knocking ourselves with violence against the wall.

"I was growing faint. I found my strength failing, and then I fired my second pistol. The light instantaneously made, showed both men redder than the Indian on the field of battle. I heard that he staggered, and rushed with all my strength upon him. He still fought a little, but suddenly dropped before me, and more than that I do not know."

"Such is the tale, as nearly as the writer can remember, that was related to him.—Should it be said that he met with a romantic, in that case, his only hope is, that he may meet with another such every day of his life; though his firm and well-founded belief is that all the details are perfectly true."

"The late Government survey of the great lakes gives the following exact measurements: Lake Superior—greatest length 355 miles, greatest breadth 160 miles, mean depth 988 feet, height above the sea 627 feet, area 32,000 square miles. Lake Michigan—greatest length 300 miles, greatest breadth 108 miles, mean depth 900 feet, height above the sea 587 feet, area 20,000 square miles. Lake Huron—greatest length 200 miles, greatest breadth 160 miles, mean depth 300 feet, height above the sea 574 feet, area 20,000 miles. Lake Erie—greatest length 250 miles, greatest breadth 80 miles, mean depth 200 feet, height above the sea 555 feet, area 6,000 miles. Lake Ontario—length 180 miles, mean breadth 65 miles, mean depth 500 feet, height above the sea 262 feet, area 6,000 square miles. Total length of five lakes, 1,345 miles; total area, 84,000 square miles.

"The hydraulic works of the Illinois Central Railroad, in Chicago, raise twenty-five thousand cubic feet of water at each revolution of the lifting wheel. In one minute they raise enough to cover a surface of one mile in length, ten feet in width, and two feet deep. It is estimated that if the mouth of the Chicago river could be dammed up to prevent the water of the lake running in, these works would pump the river dry in two days! The lifting or pumping wheel is thirty-eight feet in diameter.

COPPER IN ILLINOIS.—A nugget of copper, weighing ninety-four pounds, was exhibited recently at Chicago. It is very pure, with a smart sprinkling of silver, and is worth in the lump about twenty cents per pound. This nugget was found on the farm of Marion Quackenbush, in Kane county, Illinois, and situated about forty miles from the city of Chicago.

"There are now no less than eight hundred persons—men, women and children employed at the U.S. Arsenal at Watertown, Mass., in the preparation of cartridges and in the manufacture of other munitions of war.

"An Amazon out West, in describing her runaway husband, says: Daniel may be known by a scar on the nose, where I scratched him."

"Counterfeit notes of the Bank of England are in circulation, made on the regular banknote paper, which was stolen from the manufactory. The counterfeit creates considerable excitement, as these notes depend more on the paper for their genuineness than on the engraving. The bank has offered a liberal reward for the detection of the counterfeiters.

The Chicago Post styles the Governors' address as the mouse brought forth by the mountain at Altoona.

The Democratic press is unanimous in condemning the Emancipation Proclamation.

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